



Faculty of Social Sciences

## SIMM23, Social Sciences: Theory of Science for the Social Sciences, 7.5 credits

*Social Sciences: Theory of Science for the Social Sciences, 7,5 högskolepoäng*

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Graduate School Board on 2011-12-12 and was last revised on 2017-11-21. The revised syllabus applies from 2018-01-15, spring semester 2018.

### General Information

The course is offered as an interdisciplinary single subject course in Social Science at the second-cycle level and as an optional course within the Master of Science Programmes in Development Studies, Global Studies, and the Social Studies of Gender.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of studies*

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

Sociology of Law

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Human Geography

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Gender Studies

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Education

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Sociology

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Social Work

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Social Anthropology

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Media and Communication Studies	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Political Science	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Development Studies	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

## Learning outcomes

After completion of the course, the student shall be able to:

### Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate knowledge of various approaches in the Theory of Social Science, including, but not limited to, positivism, constructivism, and realism.
- Demonstrate understanding of key dimensions of such approaches, including, but not limited to, causality, the relationship between knowledge and observation, and the relationship between knower and the known.

### Competence and skills

- Apply fundamental concepts in the Theory of Social Science to social scientific problems.
- Command scientific communication and monitor knowledge development within the field of studies.

### Judgement and approach

- Critically assess the uses and usefulness of major approaches in the Theory of Social Science in relation to research and/or working life.

## Course content

The aim of the course is to provide comprehensive understanding of contemporary Theory of Social Science. Hence the core of the course is presentations and critical discussions of major theories of Social Science as they revolve around epistemology and apply to the various fields in the Social Sciences in general. The main purpose is to offer students the theoretical frameworks and conceptual tools necessary for an overview, facilitating their analyses with regard to their own subject and its relation to other subjects.

## Course design

The course will be given in the form of lectures and workshops. Lectures will present major perspectives in the Theory of Social Science, focusing on epistemology. The workshops will invite student participation in order to critically discuss these perspectives and to discuss their application to research and working life. Students are

expected to have read and reflected upon relevant course literature prior to lectures, as well as to come prepared to actively participate in workshops.

## Assessment

Students are assessed on the basis of a midterm written assignment and a final written assignment. Detailed information on deadlines, nature and length of the written assignments, and potential make-up assignments, is provided both in the introductory lecture and as separate course documents at the beginning of the course period.

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination and a second re-sit for courses that have ended during that school year. Two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered within a year of the end of the course. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

*Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.*

## Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

The grade for a non-passing result is Fail. The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of E the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of D the student must show satisfactory results. For the grade of C the student must show good results. For the grade of B the student must show very good results. For the grade of A the student must show excellent results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown unacceptable results.

The grade for the entire course consists of the average grade of both assessed assignments. This overall grade is based on the following balance: midterm written assignment (50%) and final written assignment (50%). For a grade of Pass on the entire course, the student must have been awarded at least E on all assessments for which the grading scale A–E+Fail applies.

At the start of the course, students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied on the course.

## Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have completed 150 higher education credits including a Bachelor's degree project in Political Science, Sociology, Social Anthropology, Education, Social Work, Sociology of Law, Gender Studies, Human Geography, Development Studies, Media and Communication Studies or the equivalent.

Oral and written proficiency in English equivalent to English 6/B (advanced) from Swedish upper secondary school is a requirement. International qualifications will be assessed in accordance with national guidelines.

## **Further information**

The course cannot be included in a degree together SIM401 Theory of Science for the Social Sciences 15 credits, SIMM01 Theory of Science for the Social Sciences 15 credits, SIMM03 Theory of Science for the Social Sciences 7.5 credits or SIMM13 Theory of Science for the Social Sciences 7.5 credits.

Subcourses in SIMM23, Social Sciences: Theory of Science for the Social Sciences

Applies from V12

1101 Theory of Science for the Social Sciences, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A